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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/775,846

Examiner

Ted Kim

Applicant(s)

PONZIANI ET AL.

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/22/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14 and 16-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gregory Welte on 2/17/06.

The CLAIMS of the application have been amended as follows:

9 (amended). An igniter for a gas turbine engine, comprising:

- a) a first electrode having a tip;
- b) a second electrode which cooperates with the tip to generate a plasma; and
- c) a third electrode having no exposure to the tip when the igniter is newly installed, but which develops exposure to the tip after a period of operation and generates a plasma between the first and third electrodes.

14 (amended). An igniter for a gas turbine engine, comprising:

- a) a first electrode having a tip;
- b) an insulator surrounding the first electrode;

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- c) a second electrode surrounding the insulator, and having an edge which cooperates with the tip to generate a plasma; and
- d) a third electrode embedded in the insulator, having no part exposed to the first electrode; wherein operation of the igniter causes part of the insulator to erode, thereby causing part of the third electrode to become exposed to the tip and cooperate with the tip to form a plasma.

22 (amended). An igniter for a gas turbine engine, comprising:

- a) a first electrode, rod-like in configuration, coaxial with an axis;
- b) an insulator surrounding the first electrode, except at a tip of the first electrode, where said tip is exposed;
- c) a second electrode, generally cylindrical in configuration, coaxial with said axis, and surrounding the insulator and the first electrode;
- d) a third electrode having a distal end, embedded in the insulator and completely surrounded by the insulator; wherein operation of the igniter causes part of the insulator to erode, thereby causing part of the third electrode to become exposed to the tip and cooperate with the tip to form a plasma.

Claims 15 and 23 have been canceled.

Drawings

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Figures 2-6 would be labeled as prior art (see page 5 of the specification). In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record do not fairly teach in permissible combination the last [with its own paragraph letter] paragraph of each of the independent claims. It was agreed that making the above changes distinguishes over the art of record. Note that Kumagai et al do not teach the 1st electrode and the embedded electrode 57 will create a plasma together.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Ted Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-4829. The Examiner can be reached on regular business hours before 5:00 pm, Monday to Thursday and every other Friday.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application is assigned are
571-273-8300 for Regular faxes and 571-273-8300 for After Final faxes.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Timothy Thorpe, can be reached at 571-272-4444.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the receptionist of Technology Center 3700, whose telephone
number is 703-308-0861. General inquiries can also be directed to the Patents Assistance
Center whose telephone number is 800-786-9199. Furthermore, a variety of online
resources are available at <http://www.uspto.gov/main/patents.htm>



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